Price-decontrol of Largectil, Serenace Eskazine, etc.

*111. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had recommended to the Kelkar Committee for price decontrol of Largectil, Serenace, Eskazine, Valium, Melleril, Siquil, Sintamil, Typtomer, Depsonil and Hydergine on the ground that these products were not essential;

(b) whether it is a fact that the turnover of each of these medicines is between Rs. one crore and three crores and that these are sold at very high prices;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these medicines were covered under category II of Drugs Price Control Order and that none of these are used for the National Health Programmes; and

(d) if so, on what basis his ministry had sent comments on these medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had not recommended price decontrol of the specific brands of drugs under question to the Kelkar Committee. However, on a specific reference from the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals on the essentiality of Diazepam (Valium/Calmose), it had stated that decontrol of Diazepam and other tranquillizers may be considered. This was based on the opinion received from the DGHS that diseases like psychosis, psychoneurosis and other psychosomatic disorders are not considered widely prevalent diseases in the country. As such drugs like diazepam and other psychotherapeutic drugs may be considered for de-control provided such a consideration fits into the overall criteria adopted by Kelkar Committee for such exclusions.

The annual turnover of these drugs as given in the Report of Operations Research Group (February, 1989) and the prices of these drugs are shown in the Statement (*See* below).

Category-II of the Drugs Price Control Order, 1987 included Largectil (genecic name Chlorpromazine), Eskazine (Trifluoperazine), Valium (Diazepam), Siquil (Trifupromazine), Tryptomer (Amitriptyline) and Depsonil (Impramine). These have been decontrolled as per the amendment to the DPCO in January, 1989.

Statement

Name of drug	Strength	No. of Tablets	Price	Annual turnover in crores
			Rs.	Rs.
Largectil	50 mg.	10 tabs.	5·94	2·2
Serenace	0·25 mg.	10 tabs.	3·02	1·1
Eskazine	1·0 mg.	12 tabs.	4·81	1·4
Valium	5·0 mg.	10 tabs.	3·18	2·5
Mellaril	25·0 mg.	20 tabs.	21·10	2·3
Siquil	10 mg.	10 tabs.	1·50	0·85
Sintamil	25 mg.	10x10 tabs.	59·85	0·76
Tryptmer	25 mg.	10 tabs.	6·39	0·96
Depsonil	25 mg.	10 tabs.	5·79	1·4
Hydergine	1 mg.	4x10 tabs.	146·07	1·93